

**[TE-PR-3] N.C. ROUTE NUMBERS**

- a. The NCDOT has full responsibility for establishing N.C. routes. Normally this relates to removing a road from the secondary road system and placing it on the primary road system.
- b. N.C. numbered routes shall have numbers not to exceed 999. N.C. route numbers shall not be in conflict with interstate numbers or U.S. numbers.
- c. Requests for the addition, modification, or deletion of N.C. route numbers shall be submitted to the Traffic Engineering Branch who shall make recommendations relative to the request based upon the following criteria:
  - 1. The proposed N.C. route must be adequately designed and constructed in terms of its pavement structure such that it can carry the statutory 18,000 pound axle load.
  - 2. The proposed route must meet minimum accepted operational standards of a minimum of a 20-foot paved width and with adequate shoulders.
  - 3. The horizontal and vertical alignment of the route must be such that it can safely handle traffic at the statutory speed limit of 55 miles per hour for the majority of its length. In extreme mountainous areas, consideration may be given to an average operating speed of 45 miles per hour.
  - 4. The desired minimum length of any N.C. route is established at 50 miles.
  - 5. N.C. routes shall not overlap existing N.C. or U.S. routes already established unless the duplication is for a short distance and the routes then diverge, ending in different terminal points.
- d. No additional N.C. route shall be added to the primary highway system or extended except where there is a definite showing of an adequately improved highway carrying an established and necessary line of intrastate traffic not otherwise provided for by existing U.S. or N.C. routes.
- e. The use of an N.C. route number, such as N.C. 42, and another route numbered as N.C. 42A is prohibited.